

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /016 R

66614

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:PKJOHNSON

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:PJOHNSON

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O 022345Z JUN 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 128238 TOSEC 020245

FOLLOWING REPEAT TOKYO 7253 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
CINCPAC COMUSJAPAN HONG KONG PEKING SEOUL TAIPEI
DTD 03 JUN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 7253

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: VIP, PFOR, JA

SUBJ: FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FORMER PRIME MINISTER SATO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: A. TOKYO 7252 NOTAL B. STATE 127668

SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH THE GOJ HAS NOT YET ANNOUNCED WHAT TYPE OF
FUNERAL--STATE, CABINET OR (LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC) PARTY--WILL BE HELD
FOR FORMER PRIME MINISTER EISAKU SATO, THIS MESSAGE DISCUSSES PAST
PRECEDENTS AND MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POSSIBLE US PARTICIPATION.
END SUMMARY.

1. FORMER JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER (1964-1972) EISAKU SATO DIED
JUNE 3 IN TOKYO (REF A). A NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER (1974), SATO
WAS THROUGHOUT HIS LONG SERVICE AS PRIME MINISTER A STAUNCH FRIEND
OF THE UNITED STATES. A CONSISTENT AND OUTSPOKEN ADVOCATE OF STRONG
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US-JAPANESE TIES AND OF THE MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY; HE DID
MUCH TO DAMPEN JAPANESE CRITICISM OF US MILITARY ACTION IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA AND WAS, OF COURSE, DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE
AGREEMENTS WHICH LED TO OKINAWA'S REVERSION TO JAPAN. IN VIEW

OF THIS, WE BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR PRESENT NORTHEAST ASIA SECURITY CONCERNS, FOR US ATTENDANCE AT SATO'S FUNERAL TO BE AS IMPRESSIVE AS POSSIBLE, CONSISTENT WITH PROTOCOL CONSIDERATIONS HERE AND AVAILABILITIES IN WASHINGTON.

2. THERE ARE THREE POSSIBLE TYPES OF FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LATE PRIME MINISTER:

(A) A STATE FUNERAL WITH SUBSTANTIAL OVERSEAS PARTICIPATION;
(B) A CABINET FUNERAL FOR WHICH THERE IS NO POSTWAR PRECEDENT BUT WOULD PRESUMABLY INVOLVE SOME OVERSEAS PARTICIPATION;
OR (C) A PARTY FUNERAL, SPONSORED BY THE RULING LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY NOT REQUIRE OVERSEAS PARTICIPATION. DISCUSSION OF PAST PRECEDENTS FOR THESE TYPES OF FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS AND OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POSSIBLE US ATTENDANCE FOLLOW.

3. STATE FUNERAL. ONLY STATE FUNERAL IN POSTWAR JAPAN WAS THAT FOR FORMER PRIME MINISTER SHIGERU YOSHIDA. YOSHIDA DIED OCTOBER 20, 1967, AND STATE FUNERAL WAS HELD SEVEN DAYS LATER. OVERSEAS DELEGATIONS FROM ELEVEN NATIONS, INCLUDING WEST GERMANY, UK, NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, ROC, ROK, INDIA, PHILIPPINES AND AUSTRALIA ATTENDED, MOSTLY AT FORMER PRIME MINISTER OR CURRENT CABINET MINISTER LEVEL. ASSUMING AGAIN THAT PROTOCOL CONSIDERATIONS AND THE LEVEL OF OTHER NATIONS' PARTICIPATION--WHICH WE SHOULD KNOW MORE ABOUT WITHIN THE NEXT DAY OR SO--WOULD MAKE THIS LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION APPROPRIATE.

6. (LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC) PARTY FUNERAL. ONLY RECENT PRECEDENT FOR LDP-ARRANGED FUNERAL WAS THAT FOR FORMER PRIME MINISTER HOYATO IKEDA IN AUGUST 1965. AT THAT TIME, SO FAR AS WE CAN NOW DETERMINE, THERE WERE NO OFFICIAL OVERSEAS DELEGATIONS. AMBASSADORS RESIDENT IN TOKYO REPRESENTED THEIR GOVERNMENT. BY CHANCE THEN US AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN, EDWIN REISCHAUER, WAS ON HOME LEAVE AND THE US WAS REPRESENTED BY THEN CHARGE JOHN K. EMMERSON. CONFIDENTIAL

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7. SHOULD THIS PATTERN AGAIN BE REPEATED, WE BELIEVE IT NOT ESSENTIAL TO SEND DELEGATION FROM THE US FOR THE FUNERAL. INSTEAD USG WOULD BE REPRESENTED FORMALLY BY AMBASSADOR. AT SAME TIME, WE BELIEVE THAT ATTENDANCE BY OLD FRIENDS OF JAPAN SUCH AS THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND FORMER AMBASSADORS REISCHAUER (AGAIN, IF HE IS ABLE TO TRAVEL), JOHNSON AND MEYER ARE LIKELY TO BOTH BE POSSIBLE FROM A PROTOCOL STANDPOINT AND DEEPLY APPRECIATED BY THE JAPANESE.

8. WE WILL, OF COURSE, INFORM DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS SPECIFIC FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE DETERMINED HERE.

9. REF B JUST RECEIVED; ADDITIONAL ANSWER FOLLOWS BY SEPTEL.

HODGSON UNQTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, STATE FUNERALS, TOSEC
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE128238
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/S-O:PKJOHNSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750192-0646
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750699/baaaalmr.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 971006
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, JA, US, (SATO, EISAKU)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006